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"1. *by its more acute snout.*—In dried specimens the snout is generally more acute than in fresh ones, and this affords therefore no ground for comparison.

"2. *by the form of the tragus.*—The incision at the apex is probably accidental and individual; we have found such incisions even to vary on both ears of one and the same individual. The tooth at the base exists in all, although in most cases overlooked, and affords no distinction.

"3. *by the hairy covering of the interfemoral membrane.*—The granules mentioned by Jenyns, upon which the hairs originate, are also to be seen on fresh, and less distinctly on dried, specimens of *V. Daubentonii*.

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A NEW MARSUPIAL ANIMAL.

*Perameles Tuckeri*, n. s. Head short, conical; ears large, hairy, coloured like the back, with a blackish edge; fur soft, brown, varied with gray hairs, and black tips; sides yellow-brown, beneath yellowish gray, under fur of back lead-coloured; tail as long as the body, tapering, hairy, and coloured like the body at the base, blackish and with rather adpressed hairs for two-thirds of its length. Length of the head  $2\frac{1}{4}$ , of the body  $5\frac{3}{4}$ , of tail  $5\frac{3}{4}$ , of hind foot  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Inhab. Australia. In the collection of Mr. Tucker, the naturalist dealer, after whom I have named it.—JOHN E. GRAY.

A NEW SPECIES OF FOSSIL DOLPHIN.

M. Von Olfers laid before the meeting of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Berlin (Dec. 19, 1839), the fragments of some fossil remains of *Cetaceæ* found in the Prussian states. The most important are the clearly distinguishable remains of the skull of a Dolphin (*Delphis Karstenii*) converted into sandstone, which differs from all hitherto found, and appears to form the transition between *D. globiceps* and the allied species and the fossil genus *Ziphius*. It occurred near Bünde in Westphalia. Vertebrae of *Balanoptera* were also communicated by Prof. Becks; they occurred in a clay bed [Thonlager] between Bocholt and Oeding.

ON THE MINERAL CALLED *DYSODIL* AS A PRODUCT FROM THE SHELLS OF INFUSORIA. BY C. G. EHRENBURG.

In 1808 M. Cordier in Paris gave this substance the name of *Dysodil*, as a peculiar species of mineral; it had, however, previously been placed by mineralogists amongst the bituminous substances, and called *foliated mineral pitch* (*blättriges Erdpech*). As is well known, it is combustible, and in Sicily, where it was first discovered, it is used as peat.

As early as the 16th of April of this year, I made a communication to the Society of the Friends of Natural History in Berlin (see the *Staatszeitung* of the 29th of April), in which I stated that this mineral occurring in Sicily, resembling yellow wax, and composed of densely matted together siliceous shells (*Kieselschalen*) of the *Naviculæ* penetrated and cemented by a kind of resin, consists of a species of mail-covered infusoria. I also stated that there existed in the collections of the mineral-dealer, M. Krantz of Berlin, a lignite from Westerwalde, the colour of which is quite black, and in which may be recognised all the microscopic characters of the yellow

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